



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: BAL-108 (17451)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
L. John Teuscher et al.)
) Examiner: Unknown
)
Serial No.: 10/037,443)
)
Confirmation No.: 4830)
) Art Unit: 3627
Filed: December 21, 2001)
)
For: Medical Connector)

JCF/A

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph on page 1 of the specification which extends onto page 2 of the specification with the following paragraph (a marked-up copy of the originally filed pages 1 and 2 are attached):

Some respiratory circuits may include a humidifier. Humidifiers are important because breathing gasses supplied to a patient must be warm and humidified in order to provide quality inhalation therapy. Additionally, the use of humidifiers in a respiratory circuit is particularly important when patients are connected to a ventilator for lengthy amounts of time. Typically, a ventilator supplies air to a humidifier which then moisturizes and warms the air. This warm and humid air is then supplied via an endotracheal tube to the patient. The endotracheal tube is usually connected to a "Y" connector. Alternatively, the "Y"